



**BelIAS**  
Civil Service Academy

**SYLLABUS OF OPTIONAL  
SUBJECTS  
SOCIOLOGY  
(UPSC CS MAINS)**

# **SOCIOLOGY**

## **PAPER- I**

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY**

#### **1. Sociology - The Discipline:**

- (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of Sociology.
- (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- (c) Sociology and common sense.

#### **2. Sociology as Science:**

- (a) Science, scientific method and critique.
- (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
- (c) Positivism and its critique.
- (d) Fact value and objectivity.
- (e) Non-positivist methodologies.

#### **3. Research Methods and Analysis:**

- (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

#### **4. Sociological Thinkers:**

- (a) Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
- (b) Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
- (c) Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
- (d) Talcolt Parxons - Social system, pattern variables.
- (e) Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.
- (f) Mead - Self and identity.

#### **5. Stratification and Mobility :**

- (a) Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation.
- (b) Theories of social stratification - Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.

(c) Dimensions - Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.

(d) Social mobility - open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

#### **6. Works and Economic Life :**

(a) Social organization of work in different types of society - slave society, feudal society, industrial capitalist society.

(b) Formal and informal organization of work.

(c) Labour and society.

#### **7. Politics and Society:**

(a) Sociological theories of power.

(b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups and political parties.

(c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.

(d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

#### **8. Religion and Society :**

(a) Sociological theories of religion.

(b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.

(c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

#### **9. Systems of Kinship:**

(a) Family, household, marriage.

(b) Types and forms of family.

(c) Lineage and descent.

(d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.

(e) Contemporary trends.

#### **10. Social Change in Modern Society :**

(a) Sociological theories of social change.

(b) Development and dependency.

(c) Agents of social change.

(d) Education and social change.

(e) Science, technology and social change.

## PAPER-II

### INDIAN SOCIETY : STRUCTURE AND CHANGE

#### A. Introducing Indian Society :

- (i) Perspectives on the Study of Indian Society :
  - (a) Indology (G.S. Ghure).
  - (b) Structural functionalism (M. N. Srinivas).
  - (c) Marxist sociology (A. R. Desai).
- (ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society :
  - (a) Social background of Indian nationalism.
  - (b) Modernization of Indian tradition.
  - (c) Protests and movements during the colonial period.
  - (d) Social reforms.

#### B. Social Structure:

- (i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:
  - (a) The idea of Indian village and village studies.
  - (b) Agrarian social structure—evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.
- (ii) Caste System:
  - (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: G. S. Ghurye, M. N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
  - (b) Features of caste system.
  - (c) Untouchability-forms and perspectives
- (iii) Tribal Communities in India:
  - (a) Definitional problems.
  - (b) Geographical spread.
  - (c) Colonial policies and tribes.
  - (d) Issues of integration and autonomy.
- (iv) Social Classes in India:
  - (a) Agrarian class structure.
  - (b) Industrial class structure.
  - (c) Middle classes in India.
- (v) Systems of Kinship in India:
  - (a) Lineage and descent in India.

- (b) Types of kinship systems.
- (c) Family and marriage in India.
- (d) Household dimensions of the family.
- (e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.

(vi) Religion and Society :

- (a) Religious communities in India.
- (b) Problems of religious minorities.

**C. Social Changes in India:**

(i) Visions of Social Change in India:

- (a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy.
- (b) Constitution, law and social change.
- (c) Education and social change.

(ii) Rural and Agrarian Transformation in India:

- (a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.
- (b) Green revolution and social change.
- (c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture.
- (d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:

- (a) Evolution of modern industry in India.
- (b) Growth of urban settlements in India.
- (c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.
- (d) Informal sector, child labour.
- (e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

(iv) Politics and Society :

- (a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.
- (b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite.
- (c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.
- (d) Secularization.

(v) Social Movements in Modern India :

- (a) Peasants and farmers movements.
- (b) Women's movement.

(c) Backward classes & Dalit movements.

(d) Environmental movements.

(e) Ethnicity and Identity movements.

(vi) Population Dynamics :

(a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.

(b) Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.

(c) Population Policy and family planning.

(d) Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.

(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation :

(a) Crisis of development : displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.

(b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.

(c) Violence against women.

(d) Caste conflicts.

(e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.

(f) Illiteracy and disparities in education.